

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush comprising a handle having a longitudinal axis, a flexible head secured to the handle, the head being flexibly mounted to the handle along the longitudinal axis, the head having an upper face with fingers flexibly mounted thereon, and ribs connecting the fingers to the upper face, whereby flexure of the head under compression or expansion along the longitudinal axis causes a longitudinal movement of ends of the ribs with respect to each other and a lateral movement of the fingers relative to the longitudinal axis.

2. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of fingers comprise a soft elastomeric material.

3. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein a composition of the rib material is stiffer than the elastomeric material of the fingers.

4. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the fingers are mounted in openings in the upper face of the head.

5. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the ribs interconnecting the fingers and flexible face are formed from polypropylene.

6. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the fingers include adjacent fingers that are connected by off-center ribs on one side of the adjacent fingers whereby all fingers connected by the ribs move in the same lateral direction when the head is flexed along the longitudinal axis.

7. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the fingers include adjacent fingers that are connected by off-center ribs on opposite sides of the adjacent fingers whereby the adjacent fingers move in opposite lateral directions when the head is flexed along the longitudinal axis.

8. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the head contains fingers along at least one edge of the head and cleaning elements are at least another portion of the head.

9. (Original) The toothbrush of claim 8 wherein the cleaning elements are moved by a powered source in the toothbrush.

10. (Previously Presented) A toothbrush comprising a handle having a longitudinal axis, a flexible head secured to the handle, the head being flexibly mounted to the handle along the longitudinal axis, the head having an upper face with a finger flexibly mounted thereon, and ribs extending from the upper face and connecting the finger to the upper face, the ribs being disposed at an acute angle to

the longitudinal axis, whereby flexure of the head under compression or expansion along the longitudinal axis causes a lateral movement of the finger relative to the longitudinal axis.

11. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 10 wherein at least a portion of the finger comprises an elastomeric material.

12. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 11, wherein the ribs are stiffer than the elastomeric material of the finger.

13. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 10 wherein the finger extends through an aperture in the face of the head.

14. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 10 wherein the finger comprises multiple fingers being connected by ribs on one side of the fingers whereby all fingers connected by the ribs move in one lateral direction when the head is flexed along the longitudinal axis.

15. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 10 wherein the finger comprises multiple fingers being connected by ribs on opposite sides of the fingers whereby the fingers move in opposite lateral directions when the head is flexed along the longitudinal axis.

16. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 10 wherein the finger comprises multiple fingers connected by ribs and some of the fingers are disposed along at least one edge of the head, and the head comprises cleaning elements disposed thereon.

17. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush of claim 16 wherein the cleaning elements are moved by a powered source in the toothbrush.